

# Subcommittee on Federal Lands

Tom McClintock, Chairman  
Hearing Memorandum

October 6, 2017

**To:** All Members, Subcommittee on Federal Lands

**From:** Majority Committee Staff – Terry Camp  
Subcommittee on Federal Lands (x6-7736)

**Hearing:** **Legislative hearing on H.R. 3607 (Rep. Tom McClintock),** To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish fees for medical services provided in units of the National Park System, and for other purposes.  
**October 11, 2017 at 10:00 AM; 1334 Longworth HOB.**

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## **Summary of the Bill**

H.R. 3607, introduced by Congressman Tom McClintock (R-CA-4), authorizes the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) to establish and collect fees for medical services provided to persons in units of the National Park System. Fees collected, as well as any donations, are to be deposited into a special account at the Treasury and, to the extent provided by advance appropriations, will be made available to the Secretary for a variety of uses related to the provision of medical services.

## **Cosponsors**

Rep. Scott Tipton (R-CO-3)

## **Invited Witnesses**

*Mr. Bob Vogel*  
Acting Deputy Director for Operations  
National Park Service  
Washington, DC

## **Background**

The National Park Service (NPS) currently manages eleven units that provide medical services, including ambulance transport, EMT services, and clinical services. These units are remote and visitors and staff have few or no other options for receiving timely medical care, especially in emergency situations.

Under current law, the NPS has the authority and responsibility to provide medical services, but does not have authority to retain revenues from insurance payments or other payments, which go to the general Treasury. The NPS does not collect fees directly but instead works with third-party agencies to bill insurance companies or individuals. The ability to retain

revenues to offset the costs of medical services would help the NPS to provide higher quality patient care with industry standard equipment and technology.

The following is a table provide by the NPS to staff showing the amounts that were allocated to run medical services at each of the ten units in FY 2016:

<b>Park Name</b>	<b>FY16 Medical Services Obligations</b>
Death Valley NP	\$132,742
Glen Canyon NRA	\$113,000
Grand Canyon NP	\$397,364
Grand Teton NP	\$400,842
Lake Mead NRA	\$65,733
Mesa Verde NP	\$0
Sequoia NP & Kings Canyon NP	\$182,000
Yellowstone NP	\$806,375
Yosemite NP	\$1,735,871
Zion NP	\$162,547
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,996,474</b>

### **Major Provisions of the Bill**

- Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to establish and collect fees for medical services provided to persons in units of the National Park System.
- Establishes a “National Park Medical Services Fund” at the Treasury, consisting of donations to the fund and fees collected by the Secretary.
- Allows for amounts deposited into the fund to be made available to the Secretary, subject to advance appropriation, for the following uses:
  1. Providing medical services to persons in NPS units.
  2. Preparing needs assessments or other programmatic analyses for medical facilities, equipment, vehicles, and other needs and costs of providing medical services.
  3. Developing management plans for medical facilities, equipment, vehicles, and other needs and costs of medical services.
  4. Training related to providing medical services.

5. Obtaining or improving medical facilities, equipment, vehicles, and other needs and costs of providing medical services.

**Administration Position**

The Administration position on H.R. 3607 is unknown at this time.

**Cost**

A Congressional Budget Office cost estimate has not yet been completed for this bill.

**Effect on Current Law (Ramseyer)**

This bill does not affect current law.